

[29/05/2020, 06:46:25] Simon C: I spoke to Matt Hancock last night. He was quite relaxed about the new Operations Committee and didn't raise a concern around being held to account by others. His only complaint was around Simon Ridley, noting that he hadn't supported HMIG well - I said I would keep an eye on that

[29/05/2020, 08:32:03] Michael Gove: Thank you!

[05/06/2020, 17:02:50] Simon C: Private prayer agreed. Lee will sort out getting Robert to announce it on Sunday

[05/06/2020, 17:03:24] Michael Gove: 🙏

[20/06/2020, 12:16:45] Simon C: Do you have time for a call today, so that I can update you on a few things?

[20/06/2020, 13:57:16] Michael Gove: Of course! When suits?

[20/06/2020, 13:58:08] Simon C: Just in meeting with PM, Chris and Patrick. Can I call when done (probably an hour or so)?

[20/06/2020, 13:58:18] Michael Gove: Of course

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[05/07/2020, 15:30:53] Simon C: Many thanks for speaking to **NR** I hope she passed muster!

[05/07/2020, 15:41:27] Michael Gove: 👍

[16/07/2020, 15:56:05] Simon C: "A plan, not a poem" is magnificent. That may ring in our ears for months to come...

[16/07/2020, 15:56:22] Michael Gove: 😊

[27/08/2020, 12:19:25] Simon C: Do you have any major concerns about all of this? Areas that we must look at in this meeting?

[27/08/2020, 12:23:45] Michael Gove: Short term - guidance on steps for Teaching Assistants - who can't observe social distancing -

Guidance on competitive sports - national governing bodies say you can play through clubs - but schools can't?

Medium term - are exam/curricular requirements right?

Have we done everything to maximise teacher numbers? Teach First etc?

How will we monitor catch-up/close attainment gap between rich and poor

[30/08/2020, 17:04:05] Michael Gove: Congratulations!

[31/08/2020, 12:44:05] Simon C: Thank you - I think!

[31/08/2020, 19:54:00] Michael Gove: You will be brilliant!

[31/08/2020, 19:55:09] Simon C: Thanks Michael. Tricky times ahead - let's get through it all together!

[02/09/2020, 17:45:52] Michael Gove: Hope I wasn't too rebarbative during **I&S**!

[02/09/2020, 17:47:58] Simon C: Not at all. It was a bloody shambles! I hear, since, largely down to miscommunication - basically, that mtg should never have been in any diaries.

[07/09/2020, 15:21:55] Michael Gove: A daft laddie question - is the PM's day structured in the way you would want to enable all the decisions that need to be taken are taken in a

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I&S

timely way? Are the right people in the room in every meeting to drive progress? Are the right people excluded?

And are the right x-WH arrangements in place to ensure early, rapid, rigorous implementation of those decisions without falling over each other?

[07/09/2020, 15:26:52] Simon C: The answer to all of these questions is no!

[08/09/2020, 08:39:04] Simon C: Michael - I'm sorry to ask an odd question... I have to address Perm Secs tomorrow on my first day. They are jittery and fearful. Would you mind having a look at a draft of my words? Simon

[08/09/2020, 08:49:00] Michael Gove: Of course

[08/09/2020, 08:49:22] Michael Gove: **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[08/09/2020, 08:55:27] Simon C: Many thanks - have sent. It isn't elegant, I'm afraid

[08/09/2020, 10:09:03] Michael Gove: I think it's Vg / free to speak briefly later?

[08/09/2020, 10:09:24] Simon C: Yes - would welcome a chat later

[08/09/2020, 10:24:44] Simon C: **I&S** is fixing a time for me to come and see you later

[08/09/2020, 10:26:35] Michael Gove: 🍌

[08/09/2020, 15:34:35] Simon C: PM minded to go for 8 rather than 6 as our new magic number

[08/09/2020, 15:43:34] Simon C: Many thanks for your comments on draft script. Really helpful. I appreciate you taking time to look at this

[08/09/2020, 15:48:53] Michael Gove: More to come

[09/09/2020, 12:35:04] Michael Gove: Hope it went well

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[18/10/2020, 17:28:09] Simon C: Are you in the camp of imposing tier 3 on Manchester? Looks highly unlikely that we will negotiate an adequate approach, so you'll probably have to decide or not whether to impose tomorrow/Tuesday. If we go beyond the end of the week, with cases already baked in, we'll hit full ICU with Covid cases by November

[18/10/2020, 17:42:54] Michael Gove: Very happy to impose

[18/10/2020, 17:47:47] Simon C: Thanks. We'll line up the process tomorrow